

News

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dallas, TX 75202

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Cheryl Abbot

Regional Economist

(214) 767-6970

<http://www.bls.gov/ro6/home.htm>

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HIGHLIGHTS OF HOUSTON-GALVESTON-BRAZORIA, TX NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER 2004

Workers in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria metropolitan area averaged \$20.39 per hour during December 2004, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman reported that white-collar workers averaged \$24.99 per hour and accounted for 59 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$15.60 per hour and represented 25 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 16 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$9.93 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 502 firms representing 997,400 workers in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria metropolitan area, which is comprised of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties in Texas. Eighty percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Houston metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 85 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged \$37.07 per hour; registered nurses, \$28.77; and bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks, \$14.47. Blue-collar occupations included bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics at \$17.65 per hour, bus drivers at \$14.59, and construction laborers at \$11.40. In the service occupations, correctional institution officers averaged \$12.41 per hour and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants, \$9.11.

National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2004 (continued)

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Houston area averaged \$21.09 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.28. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$21.76 per hour while their nonunion counterparts made \$14.37. Private industry workers in establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$17.71 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$24.81.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX National Compensation Survey December 2004 (Bulletin 3130-11). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Dallas Information Office by calling 214-767-6970. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. This release can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Dallas by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting document 9530.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Dallas Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2004

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$20.39	2.4	\$20.23	2.8	\$21.12	3.5
All excluding sales	20.70	2.6	20.58	3.1	21.16	3.4
White collar	24.99	2.6	25.16	3.2	24.36	3.8
White collar excluding sales	26.22	2.9	26.79	3.6	24.44	3.7
Professional specialty and technical	31.79	1.9	33.19	2.3	29.02	2.5
Professional specialty	33.04	2.1	34.83	2.5	30.03	2.5
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	37.83	2.6	37.83	2.6	—	—
Industrial engineers	35.05	5.5	35.05	5.5	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	40.92	7.2	40.92	7.2	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	37.19	3.2	37.39	3.2	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	37.07	3.1	37.27	3.1	—	—
Natural scientists	25.80	12.9	29.40	11.3	—	—
Geologists and geodesists	35.50	27.3	35.50	27.3	—	—
Health related	30.25	4.0	29.73	4.5	31.88	9.4
Registered nurses	28.77	3.2	28.44	4.0	29.65	5.4
Pharmacists	43.18	2.1	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	51.63	14.4	—	—	47.82	15.1
Other post-secondary teachers	55.43	24.1	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	29.48	2.1	28.69	10.8	29.55	2.2
Elementary school teachers	29.23	1.1	—	—	29.42	.8
Secondary school teachers	30.96	3.2	—	—	30.09	2.1
Teachers, n.e.c.	27.10	4.7	—	—	28.34	2.8
Vocational and educational counselors	31.33	5.5	—	—	31.33	5.5
Librarians, archivists, and curators	23.15	15.1	—	—	23.46	16.3
Librarians	23.19	15.2	—	—	23.46	16.3
Social scientists and urban planners	28.58	10.4	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	17.10	4.6	—	—	16.46	5.7
Social workers	16.84	4.1	—	—	16.46	5.7
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	22.47	13.3	21.72	15.0	—	—
Designers	17.19	23.8	17.19	23.8	—	—
Technical	25.96	5.6	27.44	6.2	18.66	8.3
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	23.35	6.0	23.40	6.1	—	—
Radiological technicians	22.89	15.7	—	—	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	17.24	1.4	17.41	1.6	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	18.40	7.2	18.27	7.5	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	19.12	17.0	—	—	—	—
Drafters	31.75	13.9	31.75	13.9	—	—
Technical and related, n.e.c.	18.70	9.4	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	35.93	6.2	36.66	7.1	30.98	5.1
Executives, administrators, and managers	40.26	6.5	42.31	7.8	31.43	6.5
Administrators and officials, public administration	28.42	3.5	—	—	28.42	3.5
Financial managers	46.43	13.3	46.89	13.4	—	—
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	47.42	11.9	47.42	11.9	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	32.46	20.9	—	—	38.66	7.4
Managers, medicine and health	30.69	13.7	30.53	14.3	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	43.94	7.9	45.75	8.4	—	—
Management related	28.77	6.9	28.85	7.1	—	—
Accountants and auditors	28.96	7.9	28.96	7.9	—	—
Other financial officers	37.33	11.1	37.33	11.1	—	—
Management analysts	33.08	15.2	33.08	15.2	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	25.75	16.9	26.19	18.2	—	—
Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.	27.24	17.7	27.24	17.7	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	22.97	10.9	22.41	11.6	—	—
Sales	16.81	10.3	16.86	10.3	—	—
Supervisors, sales	19.87	9.8	19.87	9.8	—	—
Sales, other business services	17.01	9.1	17.01	9.1	—	—
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale	33.00	14.9	33.00	14.9	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2004 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar —Continued						
Sales —Continued						
Sales workers, other commodities	\$10.48	2.8	\$10.48	2.8	—	—
Cashiers	8.41	7.1	8.28	7.4	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical						
Supervisors, general office	13.73	3.6	14.03	4.3	\$12.49	2.2
Secretaries	17.55	7.2	—	—	—	—
Receptionists	16.59	4.4	17.55	4.8	13.71	1.9
Information clerks, n.e.c.	10.93	7.3	10.91	8.0	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	10.91	4.2	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	13.21	6.6	12.57	8.8	14.12	8.3
Dispatchers	14.47	4.3	14.55	4.5	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	11.78	5.8	11.48	4.6	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	12.74	5.2	12.57	5.6	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	10.27	5.6	10.26	5.7	—	—
Bill and account collectors	17.23	13.7	17.35	13.8	—	—
General office clerks	13.68	19.0	13.68	19.0	—	—
Teachers' aides	13.34	6.2	14.92	8.1	11.39	3.0
Administrative support, n.e.c.	10.43	1.4	—	—	10.48	1.6
	13.02	4.1	—	—	13.98	2.4
Blue collar						
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.60	3.7	15.67	3.9	14.61	7.0
Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics	20.04	4.6	20.35	5.1	16.01	6.1
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	17.65	3.9	—	—	—	—
Supervisors, construction trades, n.e.c.	16.42	8.5	16.47	10.8	—	—
Electricians	20.37	13.9	20.37	14.4	—	—
Supervisors, production	26.51	4.3	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous plant and system operators, n.e.c.	24.76	8.4	26.31	6.7	—	—
	28.10	9.4	28.10	9.4	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
Welders and cutters	14.32	9.1	14.32	9.1	—	—
Assemblers	14.96	14.0	14.96	14.0	—	—
	11.23	10.2	11.23	10.2	—	—
Transportation and material moving						
Truck drivers	14.86	7.5	14.83	8.5	15.13	4.0
Bus drivers	16.39	13.6	16.49	13.9	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	14.59	1.4	—	—	14.73	1.3
Miscellaneous material moving equipment operators, n.e.c.	11.18	8.5	11.18	8.5	—	—
	15.40	18.3	—	—	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	9.99	6.1	9.90	6.6	11.34	3.7
Helpers, construction trades	10.63	14.9	—	—	10.63	14.9
Construction laborers	10.58	.5	10.58	.5	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	11.40	.3	11.41	.3	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	7.27	10.6	7.27	10.6	—	—
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners	13.00	8.3	13.00	8.3	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	8.11	10.9	7.93	10.3	—	—
	8.31	6.7	—	—	12.14	10.0
Service						
Protective service	9.93	4.2	7.89	4.2	14.54	3.2
Police and detectives, public service	17.01	5.7	8.31	10.1	18.55	2.3
Sheriffs, bailiffs, and other law enforcement officers	23.39	4.9	—	—	23.39	4.9
Correctional institution officers	19.99	2.1	—	—	19.99	2.1
Guards and police, except public service	12.41	2.0	—	—	12.41	2.0
Food service	9.05	13.9	—	—	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	6.13	6.6	5.84	7.4	8.75	1.6
Waiters and waitresses	3.38	5.5	3.38	5.5	—	—
Waiters'/Waitresses' assistants	2.21	1.7	2.21	1.7	—	—
Other food service	5.53	13.8	5.53	13.8	—	—
Cooks	8.36	5.1	8.28	6.3	8.75	1.6
	9.17	5.7	9.17	5.7	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2004 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Food service—Continued						
Other food service—Continued						
Kitchen workers, food preparation	\$8.41	2.7	\$8.43	3.0	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	7.83	3.4	7.10	6.3	\$8.81	1.7
Health service	9.72	3.9	9.02	3.1	11.41	5.9
Health aides, except nursing	11.16	9.6	9.81	14.9	12.20	8.0
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.11	1.9	8.84	1.9	10.34	1.6
Cleaning and building service	7.95	6.7	7.56	8.1	9.77	3.7
Maids and housemen	6.98	.7	6.98	.7	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	7.71	5.6	7.13	5.7	9.80	3.8
Personal service	15.62	16.5	17.46	26.8	11.60	12.0
Attendants, amusement, and recreation facilities	8.99	7.4	8.99	7.4	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group², National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2004

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$21.09	\$9.28	\$22.66	\$20.23	\$20.29	\$23.63
All excluding sales	21.28	9.72	23.34	20.49	20.66	23.52
White collar	25.59	12.49	24.47	25.01	25.01	24.59
White-collar excluding sales	26.50	16.72	27.38	26.18	26.20	—
Professional specialty and technical	31.93	25.85	—	31.05	31.79	—
Professional specialty	33.16	28.00	—	33.04	33.04	—
Technical	26.19	18.64	—	21.33	25.96	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	35.95	—	—	35.93	35.93	—
Sales	18.58	7.71	8.16	17.17	14.57	23.70
Administrative support, including clerical	13.85	11.35	16.64	13.46	13.72	—
Blue collar	15.82	8.92	21.76	14.37	15.36	21.54
Precision production, craft, and repair	20.05	—	25.34	18.98	19.87	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	14.29	—	—	12.85	14.04	—
Transportation and material moving	14.91	—	22.24	11.89	14.75	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.19	8.18	10.62	9.91	9.99	—
Service	10.76	5.79	22.95	9.44	9.93	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.6	8.8	5.2	2.6	2.6	14.6
All excluding sales	2.7	10.5	5.2	2.8	2.6	11.7
White collar	2.6	7.9	15.5	2.7	3.0	19.3
White-collar excluding sales	2.9	10.5	21.1	3.0	2.9	—
Professional specialty and technical	1.8	12.3	—	1.9	1.9	—
Professional specialty	1.9	14.9	—	2.1	2.1	—
Technical	5.7	1.7	—	5.8	5.6	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.2	—	—	6.2	6.2	—
Sales	10.9	3.2	17.4	10.4	10.8	19.8
Administrative support, including clerical	3.7	10.4	13.8	3.5	3.6	—
Blue collar	3.9	9.6	2.8	4.4	3.6	3.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.6	—	2.6	6.2	4.9	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	9.0	—	—	9.6	8.4	—
Transportation and material moving	7.8	—	3.3	4.7	8.3	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	6.5	9.4	14.1	5.8	6.1	—
Service	7.8	12.0	7.7	4.1	4.2	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information (in full publication).

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group², private industry, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2004

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$20.23	\$17.71	\$20.79	\$17.48	\$24.81
All excluding sales	20.58	17.89	21.19	17.80	24.86
White collar	25.16	23.54	25.46	22.13	28.48
White-collar excluding sales	26.79	25.08	27.10	24.68	28.78
Professional specialty and technical	33.19	30.76	33.53	28.37	36.45
Professional specialty	34.83	32.85	35.06	30.85	37.51
Technical	27.44	26.22	27.70	18.24	32.61
Executive, administrative, and managerial	36.66	33.45	37.54	37.82	37.34
Sales	16.86	15.60	17.09	15.60	23.66
Administrative support, including clerical	14.03	12.57	14.29	14.47	14.14
Blue collar	15.67	14.09	16.09	14.69	18.83
Precision production, craft, and repair	20.35	17.98	20.94	20.54	21.49
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	14.32	14.33	14.32	12.44	20.61
Transportation and material moving	14.83	9.85	16.25	14.75	19.32
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.90	11.55	9.39	8.74	11.09
Service	7.89	7.76	7.93	6.56	10.44
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	2.8	10.7	3.5	3.9	4.0
All excluding sales	3.1	11.3	3.6	4.5	3.8
White collar	3.2	11.9	5.0	4.7	6.8
White-collar excluding sales	3.6	12.9	5.3	5.7	6.8
Professional specialty and technical	2.3	15.9	2.1	3.4	2.2
Professional specialty	2.5	19.4	2.6	3.4	2.5
Technical	6.2	22.8	4.7	4.6	8.0
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.1	17.5	7.4	12.1	5.6
Sales	10.3	8.7	12.0	13.7	23.8
Administrative support, including clerical	4.3	12.7	3.8	6.6	2.7
Blue collar	3.9	6.9	3.9	5.0	8.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.1	5.1	6.8	6.1	9.7
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	9.1	5.9	10.8	14.9	10.4
Transportation and material moving	8.5	11.0	10.0	16.2	5.8
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	6.6	10.4	5.5	5.8	9.8
Service	4.2	8.7	4.2	6.6	13.3

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information (in full publication).

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

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